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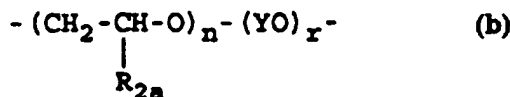
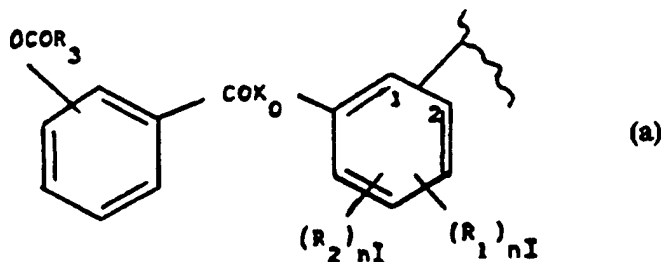
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

<p>(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : C07C 203/04, 235/44, A61K 31/21, 31/165</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>(11) International Publication Number: WO 97/16405</p> <p>(43) International Publication Date: 9 May 1997 (09.05.97)</p>
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP96/04696</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 29 October 1996 (29.10.96)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data: MI95A002263 31 October 1995 (31.10.95) IT</p> <p>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): NICOX S.A. [FR/FR]; 45, avenue Kléber, F-75116 Paris (FR).</p> <p>(72) Inventors; and</p> <p>(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): DEL SOLDATO, Piero [IT/IT]; Via Toti, 22, I-20052 Monza (IT). SANNICOLO', Francesco [IT/IT]; Alzaia Naviglio Grande, 46, I-20148 Milano (IT).</p> <p>(74) Agents: SAMA, Daniele et al.; Sama Patents, Via G.B. Morgagni, 2, I-20129 Milano (IT).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: AL, AU, BB, BG, BR, CA, CN, CZ, EE, GE, HU, IL, IS, JP, KP, KR, LK, LR, LT, LV, MG, MK, MN, MX, NO, NZ, PL, RO, SG, SI, SK, TR, UA, US, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p>Published <i>With international search report.</i></p>

(54) Title: NEW COMPOUNDS AND THEIR COMPOSITIONS HAVING ANTI-INFLAMMATORY AND ANTI-THROMBOTIC ACTIVITIES

(57) Abstract

Compounds, or their compositions, of general formula: A - X₁ - NO₂ or their salts, used as medicaments, wherein: A = R(COX)_t; t = 0 or 1; X = O; X₀ = X; R being (a) wherein: R₁, R₂ and R₃ are alkyls; X₁ is a bivalent linking group chosen among -YO wherein Y is chosen among a linear or when permissible branched C₁-C₂₀ alkylene, a cycloalkylene having 5 to 7 carbon atoms optionally substituted; (b) wherein n is an integer from 1 to 6, R_{2a} being H, CH₃; r = 0 or 1.



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NEW COMPOUNDS AND THEIR COMPOSITIONS HAVING ANTI-INFLAMMATORY AND ANTI-THROMBOTIC ACTIVITIES

The present invention relates to new products having anti-inflammatory, analgesic and anti-thrombotic activities.

In particular it relates to inhibitors of cyclo-oxygenase (COX) of the class of Aspirin, i.e. of acetylsalicydic acid or its derivatives in general.

It is known that the anti-inflammatory and anti-thrombotic efficacy of NSAIDs (Non Steroid Anti-Inflammatory Drugs), also known as FANS, but above all their tolerance, seem to be markedly affected by their inhibitor activity of the cyclo-oxygenase (COX) in the inflammatory site as well as in healthy tissue. See for example FASEB Journal 1, 89, 1987; Bioch. Biophys. Acta 1083, 1, 1991. It is generally believed that the stronger a COX inhibitor is the more effective it is.

The disadvantage of these products is that they are toxic.

Furthermore, it is also known that the COX-inhibiting properties seem to depend on some factors bound to the physico-chemical and structural characteristics of the molecules themselves, such as for example the acidic function. See for example J. Pharmacol. Exp. Therap. 196, 226, 1976; Arch. Toxicol. 60, 261, 1987.

The known cyclo-oxygenase inhibitors are generally acids which can be brought back to general structures, including:

- carboxyl acids, either acetylated such as, for example, aspirin and triflusal, or nonacetylated such as, for example, salycilate, diflunisal, salsalate;
- acetic acids, for example diclofenac, indomethacin, tolmetin, sulindac, etodolac, ketorolac;
- propionic acids, such as, for instance, ibuprofen, naproxen, piroprofen, tiaprofenic acid, loxoprofen, indoprofen, oxaprozin, ketoprofen, fenoprofen, fenbufen, flurbiprofen, carprofen, suprofen.

See for example a previous patent application in the name of the applicant PCT/EP 95/01233, herein incorporated by reference, which describes the prior art of the above products.

As said, the disadvantage of these products is that they are very effective but highly toxic.

The importance of the acidic function resides in the fact that the masking of this function in COX inhibitors results in a virtually complete loss of its prostanoid-inhibiting properties. See Drugs 35, 504, 1988.

Products are also known which are highly effective in inhibiting cyclooxygenase and have a low toxicity even though they do not contain the acidic function in their mo-

leculé.

These products are known as nitric esters with nonacidic ending. See for example patents WO 94/04484, which describes a particular group of compounds including the well known commercial product diclofenac; WO 94/12463, which describes another specific group of compounds including the commercial products flurbiprofen and indoprofen, PCT/EP 94/03182, which describes another specific group of compounds including the commercial products naproxen and ketorolac.

In a previous patent application in the name of the applicant PCT/EP 95/01233 other nitric esters having a nonacidic termination have been described with various linking groups X_1 as specified below.

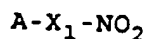
The new linking groups therein described showed advantages from the pharmacological and pharmaceutical viewpoint, in particular pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic viewpoint, since they showed a lower variability of the response. The products described in said patent application were also able to exert an inhibition effect of the inflammation produced by lipopolysaccharide (LPS) and therefore useful in the septic shock. This result was unexpected since it is well known that the anti-inflammatory products in general do not significantly modify the activity of the nitrosynthetase induced by lipopolysaccharides in the rat and therefore they are not

useful in the septic shock.

The technical problem to be solved by the present invention relates to inhibitor products of the COX much more effective in inhibiting the platelet aggregation induced by arachidonic acid and thrombin, the latter having a well known primary pathogenic role even superior to arachidonic acid and other aggregant stimulus, said products having contemporaneously a high gastric tolerability, without provoking adhesions of the gastric intestinal mucosa on the treated animals.

The applicant has unexpectedly and surprisingly found a specific class of anti-inflammatory products, as described hereinbelow, having an improved inhibitor activity of the COX combined with a low toxicity.

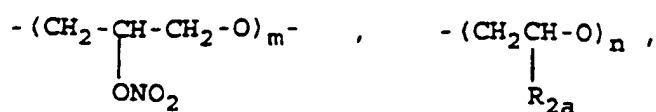
An object of the present invention are compounds, or their compositions, of general formula:



or their salts, for use as medicaments, in particular as anti-inflammatory and antithrombotic agents, having improved efficiency in inhibiting the platelet aggregation induced by arachidonic acid and/or thrombin, wherein:

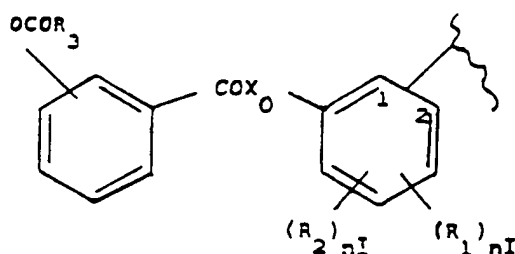
A = R(COX)_t, wherein t is zero or 1;

X = O, NH, NR_{1C} wherein R_{1C} is a linear or branched alkyl having 1 to 10 C atoms, preferably 1-4 C atoms, or



wherein m and n are integers from 1 to 6, preferably m from 1 to 3, and n from 2 to 4; R_{2a} being H, CH_3 ; the linking with X_1 can be in any position of the ring, preferably in position 2; $-\text{OCOR}_3$ preferably in position ortho with respect to $-\text{COX}_0-$; $\text{X}_0 = \text{X}$;

R is chosen from:



wherein:

R_1 is an OCOR_3 group, wherein R_3 is methyl, ethyl or a linear or branched C_3 - C_5 alkyl, or the residue of a heterocycle with a single ring having 5 or 6 atoms which may be aromatic, partially or totally hydrogenated, containing one or more heteroatoms independently chosen from O, N, and S;

R_2 is hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, a linear or when permissible branched alkyl having 1 to 4 C atoms, a linear or when permissible branched alkoxy having 1 to 4 C atoms, a linear or when permissible branched perfluoroalkyl having 1 to 4 C atoms, for example trifluoromethyl; nitro, amino, mono- or

di-alkylamine in which the alkylamine has 1 to 4 C atoms;
 R_1 and R_2 together are a dioxymethylene group, with the proviso that when $X = NH$, then X_1 is ethylene and $R_2 = H$; R_1 cannot be $OCOR_3$ in position 2 when R_3 is methyl; nI being 0 or 1;

X_1 in the formula $A-X_1-NO_2$ is a bivalent connecting bridge chosen from the following:

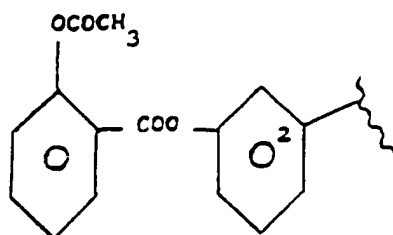
-YO-


where Y is selected from:

- a linear or when permissible branched C_1-C_{20} alkylene, preferably having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms;
- a cycloalkylene having from 5 to 7 carbon atoms optionally substituted;
- $-(CH_2-\underset{\substack{| \\ R_{2a}}}{CH}-O)_n-(YO)_r-$

wherein n is an integer from 1 to 6, preferably from 2 to 4; R_{2a} as defined above; $r = 0$ or 1; Y as defined above, preferably C_1-C_{10} , preferably C_2-C_6 .

The preferred products according to the present invention are those in which $t = 0$, X_0 is oxygen; the group having NO_2 is in position 2 with respect to $-COX_0$; $nI = 0$; $R_3 = CH_3$. In particular the preferred products according to the present invention are the following:



wherein  is $-\text{CH}_2-\text{ONO}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{ONO}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{ONO}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{ONO}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{ONO}_2$.

The processes for obtaining compounds of the invention are for example those listed in The Merck Index, XI ed., 1989, page 16, n. 95 or in the German Patent 236.196 or by methods well known to the chemist for the introduction of the groups in the various positions. The modifications of the compounds of the general formula can be obtained by using the processes cited in the patent WO 92/01668.

The products of the present invention of general formula A- X_1 - NO_2 with the linking groups X_1 as defined above, are obtainable by using the methods of the prior art described above or by modifying the known methods for the introduction of the linking group X_1 when these are different from the linking groups stated in the cited patents.

The same is valid also for the introduction of the $-\text{COX}_0-$ group.

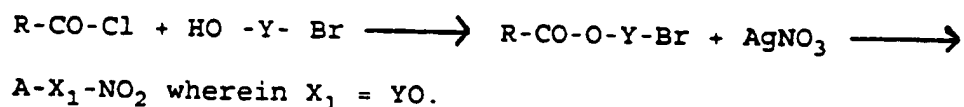
Generally, the connection between A and X_1 is, as seen, generally, of the ester or amidic type (NH or $\text{NR}_{1\text{C}}$, as defi-

ned in X). All well known synthetic routes for forming these bonds may be used to form this connection.

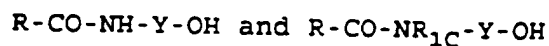
In the case of the esters, the most direct synthetic route involves a reaction of acyl chlorides $R-CO-Cl$ with halogen alcohols for example $HO-Y-Cl$, $HO-Y-Br$, $HO-Y-I$, in the experimental conditions well known in the art.

The reaction products are converted into the final products by reacting with $AgNO_3$ in acetonitrile, in accordance to what known from the literature.

The general route is as follows:

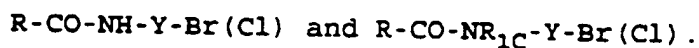


In the case of amides the synthetic route involves a reaction of said acyl chlorides $RCOCl$ with amino alcohols of the general formula NH_2-Y-OH , $NHR_{1C}-Y-OH$ to give amides of the general formula:



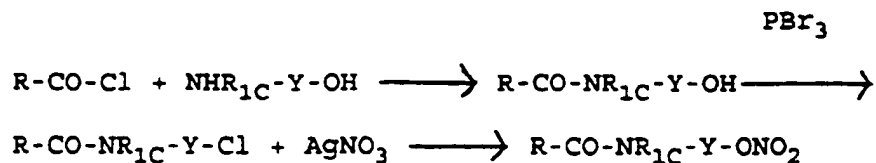
in accordance with known methods.

The reaction of said amides with halogenating agents such as, for example, PCl_5 , PBr_3 , $SOCl_2$, etc., brings to halogen derivatives of the general formula:



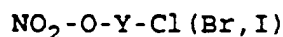
The latter products by reacting with $AgNO_3$ in acetonitrile in accordance with known literature methods, bring to the final products $A-X_1-NO_2$.

The route may be outlined as follows:



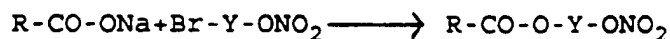
wherein YO is X_1 .

An alternative route to form the esters is a reaction of the sodium or potassium salts of the acids with the nitric esters of halogen alcohols of the general formula:



to directly give the products of the invention.

The reaction route is as follows:



wherein YO is X_1 .

The following examples are being given only as illustrative explanation but not as a limitation of the present invention.

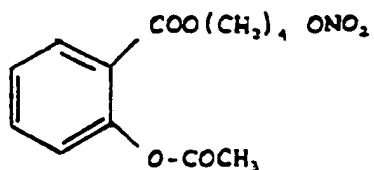
EXAMPLES

Example 1: Comparison - Preparation of the products

It was used acetylsalicylic acid ASA available on the market, Aspirin of Bayer.

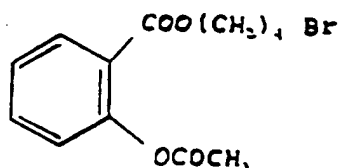
Example 2: Comparison - Preparation of the compound A- X_1 -NO₂, wherein R has the formula below of Aspirin, X_1 is $-(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{O}-$, herein called ANBE, and having general formula:

2-acetoxy-benzoate of (4-nitroxy)butyl



Preparation of the intermediate having formula:

2-acetoxy-benzoate of (4-bromine)butyl



At a solution of:

acetylsalicylic acid	15.0 g and
dimethylformamide	50 ml

kept at 0°C under nitrogen stream it is added portionwise:
2.6 g of NaI (80% by weight suspension in vaseline oil).

The mixture was left under stirring for 1 hour and then was
dropped in 5 hours, at 25°C in a stirred solution of:

2,2'-dibromo-butane	27.0 g and
dimethylformamide	50 ml

The mixture was left under stirring for 3 days, then was
dried at reduced pressure. The residue was treated with:

water	50 ml
dichloromethane	50 ml

The phases were separated and the aqueous phase was further
extracted in 10 ml of dichloromethane.

The pooled organic phases were washed with water (3 x 25

ml), dried (MgSO_4), decoloured with animal charcoal (1 g), and brought to dryness in vacuum.

The residue (26.0 g) was used crude for the next reaction.

Preparation of ANBE

At a solution of

ASA- $(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{Br}$ 26.0 g

acetonitrile 65 ml

kept at room temperature and sheltered from light, was added

silver nitrate 21.0 g

After 2 days under stirring were added 4.3 g of silver nitrate.

After 2 further days under the same conditions the insoluble salts were filtered and the filtrate was freed of the solvent at reduced pressure.

A residue of 18.0 g was obtained and the chromatography on a silica gel column (500 g of silica) eluting with a toluol/ethyl acetate 95/5 v/v mixture was carried out.

The fractions resulted uniform for TLC (Thin Layer Chromatography) analysis and were pooled and brought to dryness and gave 15.0 g of ANBE.

The ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) (80 MHz) analysis showed the following data:

2.28 (3H, s); 1.2 (4H, m); 4.30 (2H, t);

4.50 (2H, t); 7.3 (3H, m); 7.95 (1H, dd).

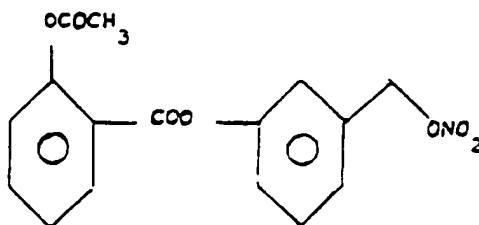
The IR analysis (Nujol) provided the following results:

$\nu_{\text{OCO}} = 1780 \text{ cm}^{-1}$; $\nu_{\text{COO}} = 1725 \text{ cm}^{-1}$; $\nu_{\text{ONO}_2} = 1641 \text{ e } 1287 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

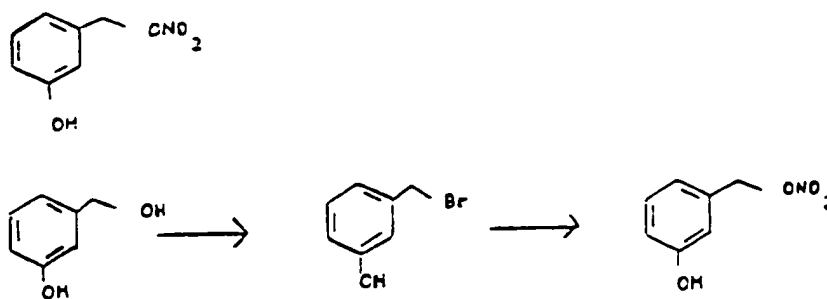
Mass spectrometry gave a molecular weight value of 297.

EXAMPLE 3 - Preparation of the compound A- X_1 -NO₂ wherein R has the formula below, X_1 is $-(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{O}$, herein called ANMPE having formula:

2-acetoxy-benzoate of (3-nitroxymethyl)phenyl



Preparation of the intermediate of formula



In a 1 l flask were added:

3-OH-benzyl alcohol	28.1 g (0.226 mols)
Methylene chloride	85 ml
HBr (48% by weight in water)	140 ml

and were kept under stirring at room temperature for 1 hour and half.

At the end the phases were separated and the aqueous phase was further extracted with methylene chloride (about 50 ml). The pooled organic phases were washed twice with:

Distilled water 100 ml

Solution of NaHCO_3 at 5% (w/v) 50 ml

Then it was anhydriified on MgSO_4 and was brought to dryness obtaining a residue equal to 34.13 g of crystalline solid.

The product was characterized by TLC analysis, by using a toluol/ethylacetate 7/3 v/v mixture as eluent.

The so obtained product is used immediately for the following reaction.

In a 1 l flask provided with stirrer, thermometer, dropping system were added:

Previous reaction residue 34 g

Acetonitrile 100 ml

In the dropping system it was charged a solution of:

Silver nitrate 38.5 g

Acetonitrile 60 ml

and it was dropped in about 2 hours, keeping the flask sheltered from light and cooling on a water bath.

The temperature was maintained between 20 and 30°C.

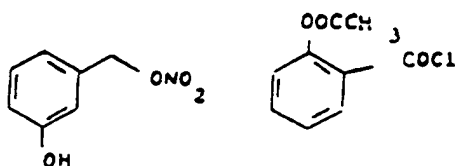
It was left to react for about 15 hours.

Then it was filtered and the filtrate was dried; at the residue was added ethylacetate, about 500 ml, then silica (50 g) and coal (3 g).

The filtrate was dried again and a chromatography on about 300 g of silica using toluol as eluent was carried out by using the chromatographic system indicated above.

11.7 g of product were obtained (dark oil) and characterized by TLC.

Preparation of ANMPE



In a 250 ml flask provided with stirrer, thermometer, dropping system were introduced:

3-hydroxybenzyl nitrate	4.95 g
potassium carbonate	7.0 g
ethylacetate	50 ml

It was cooled at 0°C and dropped under nitrogen stream in 15 minutes a solution of:

acetylsalicyloyl chloride	5.01 g
ethylacetate	20 ml

At the end of the dropping it was left to react for about 4 hours at 20°C.

The reaction was made in TLC (toluol ethylacetate 9/1 v/v).

At the end 70 ml of distilled water was added.

The phases were separated, the aqueous phase was extracted again with 30 ml of ethylacetate and the pooled organic pha-

ses were washed with water (30 ml) containing sodium chloride (10 g).

The organic phases were then anhydriified on magnesium sulphate and dried; a 8.9 g residue was obtained (yellow oil) which solidifies for cooling at 0°C. By crystallization from isopropilic ether 6.5 g of ANMPE were obtained at the pure state. The ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) (80 MHz) analysis gave the following data:

2.34 (3H, s); 5.45 (2H, s); 7.05-7.75 (7H, m);
8.24 (1H, dd).

EXAMPLE 4: pharmacological examples

The products prepared above were characterized by a pharmacological viewpoint.

In the in vivo studies (for example toxicity) the products obtained above were administered in form of suspension in carboxymethylcellulose 1-2% by weight.

For the in vitro tests (piastrinic tests) the nitroderivatives, 1 mmol, were dissolved in dimethylsulfoxide and then diluted according to the concentrations listed in the Table. Aspirin ASA 30 mmols was dissolved in a mixture of etanol:H₂O in the range 1:10 by volume and then diluted according to the concentrations listed in the Table.

The samples, obtained without adding the substance under examination (ASA, ANBE, ANMPE), did not show any significant reply.

Toxicity

The acute toxicity was evaluated through oral submini-
stration of a single dose of 1, 3, 10, 30, 100, 200 mg/Kg of
product in groups of 10 little rats.

The lethality incidence and the appearance of toxic sintho-
matology were noted within a period of 14 days. Also after
administration of a dose of 200 mg/Kg the animals did not
show any apparent toxicity both with ANMPA and with ANBE.

Tolerability

The gastric tolerability was evaluated through oral
subministration in the rat measuring the seriousness of the
gastropathie induced according to the criterium indicated by
Wallace et al. (Am. J. Physiol. 259, G642, 1990).

Piastrinic tests

- Anti-aggregating piastrinic activity (anti-thrombotic
activity)

The anti-aggregating piastrinic activity was evaluated
in vitro on human piastrines stimulated by trombin or by
arachidonic acid according to the method described by Berte-
le et al. (Science 220, 517, 1983).

- COX inhibition (anti-inflammatory activity)

The inhibition activity of the cyclooxygenases was de-
termined in human piastrines according to the method descri-
bed by Patrono et al (Thrombosis Res. 17, 317, 1980). The
enzimatic activity was expressed as level of Tromboxan B2

(T_xB2) and measured in ng/ml.

- Piastrinic adhesion

The inhibition activity of the piastrinic adhesion was evaluated according to the method described by Bellavite et al. (Anal. Biochem. 216, 444, 1994).

- Intracellular piastrinic calcium

The effect of the compounds of the invention or comparison compounds on the calcium concentration inside the piastrine was measured according to the method of Pollock et al. (Biochem. J. 235, 869, 1986).

TABLE 1

COMPOUND	CONCENTRATION (M)	PIASTRINIC AGGREGATION (%) (1)		COX INHIBITION (%) (1)
		INDUCED BY ARACHIDONIC ACID	INDUCED BY TROMBIN	
ASA (Ex. 1)	10^{-5}	40	100	-
ASA (Ex. 1)	$5 \cdot 10^{-5}$	-	-	3
ASA (Ex. 1)	10^{-4}	0	100	1
ASA (Ex. 1)	10^{-3}	-	80	-
ANBE (Ex. 2)	10^{-5}	100	-	80
ANBE (Ex. 2)	$5 \cdot 10^{-5}$	-	-	70
ANBE (Ex. 2)	10^{-4}	50	60	30
ANBE (Ex. 2)	10^{-3}	20	50	-
ANMPE (Ex. 3)	10^{-5}	60	70	5
ANMPE (Ex. 3)	$5 \cdot 10^{-5}$	10	40	2
ANMPE (Ex. 3)	10^{-4}	0	0	-
(1) % REFERRED TO CONTROLS (FOR ADDING OF THE AGGREGATING SUBSTANCE ONLY)				

RESULTS

From the results of the Table, it can be seen that ANMPE (compound of the invention) is much more efficient with respect to ASA and ANBE in the inhibition of the piastrinic aggregation induced by arachidonic acid. In the case of ANMPE it is higher than ANBE and similar to ASA.

Nevertheless in the piastrinic aggregation induced by trombin, which higher patogenetic value is known with respect to the arachidonic acid or other aggregating stimulus, the ANMPE gives values surprisingly higher both with respect to ANBE and ASA.

For the COX inhibition properties, the product of the invention ANMPE shows activities similar to ASA, but well higher with respect to ANBE.

This is much more surprising if we consider that ANMPE as well as ANBE, but differently from ASA, it is very well tolerated in the gastric mucose.

- Indeed the gastric tolerance tests have shown that already at doses of 50-100 mg/Kg ASA induced severe damages in the intestinal gastric mucose of the treated animals.

On the contrary ANMPE and ANBE, also when administered at doses of 250-500 mg/Kg did not produce relevant damages.

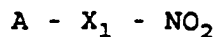
- As regards the other piastrinic tests:
piastrinic adhesion and intracellular piastrinic calcium, only ANMPE resulted efficient in inhibiting significantly

and in a dose-dependent way (from 10^{-5} to 10^{-4} M) both pathological processes.

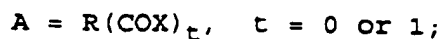
On the contrary it was not possible to see any inhibiting effect with other compounds under examination.

CLAIMS

1. Compounds, or their compositions, of general formula:

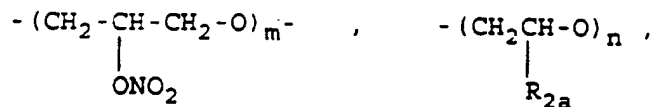


or their salts, used as medicaments, wherein:

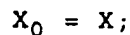


$X = O, NH, NR_{1c}$ wherein R_{1c} is a linear or branched, when possible, alkyl from 1 to 10 C atoms, preferably from 1 to 4

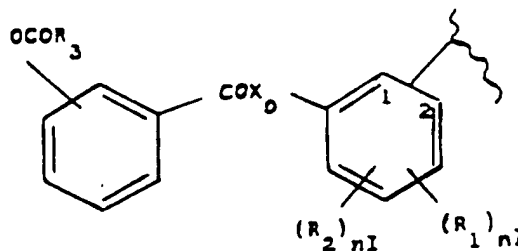
or



wherein m and n are integer from 1 to 6; R_{2a} being H, CH_3 ; the linking with X_1 can be in any position of the ring; $-OCOR_3$ is preferably in ortho position with respect to $-COX_0-$;



R is chosen among:



wherein:

R_1 is the group $OCOR_3$; wherein R_3 is methyl, ethyl or linear or branched alkyl C_3-C_5 , or the residue of an etherocycle with only one ring having 5 or 6 atoms which can be aromatic, partially or completely hydrogenated, containing one or more ethero-atoms selected independently among O, N and S;

R_2 is hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, linear or when permissible branched C_1-C_4 alkyl, linear or when permissible branched alcoxyl from 1 to 4 carbon atoms; a linear or when permissible branched perfluoroalkyl having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, nitro, amino, mono- or di-alkylamine with C_1-C_4 alkyl;

R_1 and R_2 together are a dioxymethylene group, with the proviso that when $X = NH$, then X_1 is ethylene and $R_2 = H$;

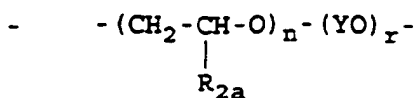
R_1 cannot be $OCOR_3$, in position 2 when R_3 is methyl; n being an integer 0 or 1;

X_1 in the formula $A-X_1-NO_2$, is a bivalent connecting bridge chosen from the following:

-YO

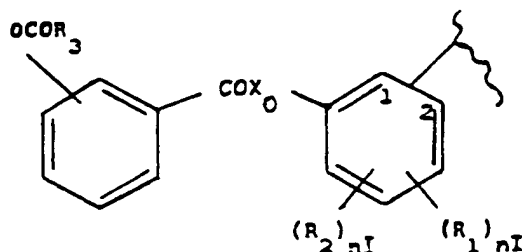
where Y is selected from:

a linear or when permissible branched C_1-C_{20} alkylene, a cycloalkylene having from 5 to 7 carbon atoms optionally substituted;

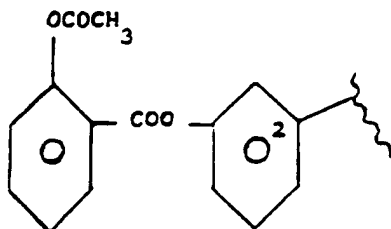


wherein n is an integer from 1 to 6, R_{2a} as defined above; $r = 0$ or 1.

2. Compounds or their compositions according to claim 1, having general formula:



3. Compounds or their compositions according to claims 1, 2 having general formula:



wherein is $-\text{CH}_2-\text{ONO}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{ONO}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{ONO}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{ONO}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{ONO}_2$.

4. Use of the compounds, or their compositions according to claims 1 to 3 for the preparation of medicaments for the septic shock.
5. Use of the compounds, or their compositions according to claims 1 to 3 for the preparation of medicaments for anti-inflammatory and anti-thrombotic products.

6. Compounds, or their compositions according to claims 1 to 3.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. Appl. No.
PCT/EP 96/04696

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 C07C203/04 C07C235/44 A61K31/21 A61K31/165

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 C07C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P,X	WO 95 30641 A (NICOX LTD) 16 November 1995 cited in the application see claims ---	1-6
A	WO 92 01668 A (ITALFARMACO SPA) 6 February 1992 see claims ---	1,5
P,X	BLOOD COAGULATION FIBRINOLYSIS (BLFIE7,09575235);96; VOL.7 (2); PP.206-209, UNIVERSITY VERONA;INSTITUTE CLINICAL CHEMISTRY; VERONA; 37134; ITALY (IT), XP000614646 LECHI C ET AL: "In vitro study of the anti-aggregating activity of two nitro derivatives of acetylsalicylic acid" see the whole document -----	1,4-6

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "A" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

23 January 1997

Date of mailing of the international search report

4 -02-1997

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